AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following claim listing is to replace all previous claim listings. Amendments to the claims are illustrated through strikethrough (for deleted matter) and underlining (for added matter).

CLAIM LISTING

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:

storing program data for an electronic program guide in multiple tables, each table comprising one or more records with one or more fields and at least two said tables are related such that one said record in one said table indexes another said record in another said table; and

sorting the records in the tables according to a selected field type prior to delivery of the program data to a remote client.

2. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the tables comprises a particular structure and the sorting rearranges the records without changing the particular structure.

3. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the selected field type is selected from a group of fields including actor names, program genre, title, and ratings.

4. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the records comprise program records containing programming information, individual program records having a title field to identify a program name, and the sorting comprises arranging the program records in the tables according to a stopped name version of the program name in the title field.

5. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising constructing a data file to hold the sorted tables.

6. (original) A method as recited in claim 5, further comprising delivering the data file to the remote client.

7. (original) A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the storing, the sorting, and the constructing are repeated for each day of program data.

8. (currently amended) A method for delivering program data for an electronic program guide executing at a remote client, the method comprising:

storing program data for an electronic program guide in multiple tables, the tables comprising one or more program tables with records of programming information, the program tables having a title field for program titles, and one said record in one said table indexes another said record in another said table;

sorting the records in the program tables according to the title field; and

constructing a data file to hold the tables.

9. (original) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the sorting comprises arranging the records according to stopped name versions of program names in the title field.

10. (original) A method as recited in claim 8, further comprising delivering the data file to the remote client.

11. (original) A method as recited in claim 10, further comprising searching, at the client, the program records using a binary search.

12. (original) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the storing, the sorting, and the constructing are repeated for each day of program data.

13. (original) A method as recited in claim 12, further comprising:

delivering the data files to the remote client; and

searching, at the client, the program records in each of the data files for each day of program data to produce temporary results from each of the data files and subsequently searching the temporary results.

14. (original) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing system to:

sort program data for an electronic program guide according to stopped names of program titles; and

store the program data in a data structure for delivery to a remote client.

15. (original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 14, further comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing system to deliver the data structure to the remote client.

16. (original) A data structure stored on a computer-readable medium, comprising:

multiple tables to store program data for use in an electronic program guide;

the tables comprising program tables composed of records with programming information, the program tables having a title field to hold program titles; and

the records of the program tables being sorted by stopped name versions of the program titles.

17. (currently amended) A computer system, comprising:

a memory;

a processor coupled to the memory; and

a data sorter program stored in memory and executed on the processor to sort electronic program guide (EPG) data according to a data type into records arranged in multiple tables, at least two said tables are related such that one said record in one said table indexes another said record in another said table, prior to delivery of the EPG data to a remote client.

18. (original) A computer system as recited in claim 17, wherein the data type is a program title, and the data sorter program is configured to sort the EPG data according to a stopped name version of the program title.

19. (original) A computer system as recited in claim 17, wherein there is EPG data for multiple days, and the data sorter program is configured to sort the EPG data separately for each day.

20. (currently amended) A processing system, comprising:

sorting means for sorting program data for an electronic program guide according to a data type that a viewer is likely to search, wherein the program data is sorted into multiple tables, at least one said table includes a record that indexes a record in another said table; and

transmission means for transmitting the sorted program data to the client.

21. (original) A processing system as recited in claim 20, wherein the sorting means sorts the program data according to stopped names of program titles.

22. (currently amended) A television entertainment system, comprising:

multiple clients to receive television signals and corresponding program data for an electronic program guide (EPG), individual clients having a search engine to search the program data; and

an EPG server to sort the program data prior to delivery to the client, the program data being sorted according to a selected parameter to place the program

data in a sorted arrangement to facilitate searching at the client, wherein the sorted arrangement includes a record for the selected parameter that indexes another record for another parameter.

23. (original) A television entertainment system as recited in claim 22, wherein the EPG server sorts the program data according to program title.

24. (original) A television entertainment system as recited in claim 22, wherein the EPG server sorts the program data according to stopped name versions of program titles.

25. (original) A television entertainment system as recited in claim 22, wherein individual clients are configured to search the program data using a binary search engine.

26. (original) A television entertainment system as recited in claim 22, wherein the program data covers multiple days, and the EPG server is configured to sort the program data for each day separately from other days, and individual clients are configured to perform a two-phase search in which a first phase involves a search of the program data for each day and a second phase involves a search of results produced from the first phase.